IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A disk recording and/or reproducing apparatus, comprising:

recording and/or reproducing means disposed in a chassis, the recording and/or reproducing means recording and/or reproducing a disk cartridge;

a cartridge holder supported on the chassis movably between an insertion/removal position, at which the disk cartridge is inserted or removed, and a recording/reproducing position, at which the disk cartridge is recorded or reproduced by the recording and/or reproducing means;

an eject lever disposed on the chassis so as to be movable in a disk cartridge insertion/removal direction, the eject lever being pressed by an insertion end of the disk cartridge inserted in the cartridge holder to be moved in the disk cartridge insertion direction;

urge means urging the eject lever in the disk cartridge removal direction; and

cartridge drop preventive means disposed on a side surface plate of a second side wall of the cartridge holder, the cartridge drop preventive means making a sliding contact with a side surface of the disk cartridge stored in the cartridge holder, including

an elastic flap portion provided on the second side wall of the cartridge holder opposite a first side wall facing a reproducing/recording opening portion, and a rear-anchor portion of said elastic flap portion being connected to the second side wall, and a leading end of the elastic flap portion oriented toward the insertion/removal position, giving the disk cartridge stored in the cartridge holder a braking force, and

a protruded portion disposed on a leading end portion of the elastic flap portion, the protruded portion making sliding contact with a side surface of the disk cartridge, wherein

the disk cartridge has a side surface of an insertion end thereof formed into an arc.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The recording and/or reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the disk cartridge includes a recessed portion disposed in part of the side surface thereof; and

when storage of the disk cartridge in the cartridge holder is completed, the protruded portion of the cartridge drop preventive means fits into the recessed portion.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended ): ~~The recording and/or reproducing apparatus according to claim 1~~, A disk recording and/or reproducing apparatus, comprising:

recording and/or reproducing means disposed in a chassis, the recording and/or reproducing means recording and/or reproducing a disk cartridge;

a cartridge holder supported on the chassis movably between an insertion/removal position, at which the disk cartridge is inserted or removed, and a recording/reproducing position, at which the disk cartridge is recorded or reproduced by the recording and/or reproducing means;

an eject lever disposed on the chassis so as to be movable in a disk cartridge insertion/removal direction, the eject lever being pressed by an insertion end of the disk cartridge inserted in the cartridge holder to be moved in the disk cartridge insertion direction;

urge means urging the eject lever in the disk cartridge removal direction; and

cartridge drop preventive means disposed on a side surface plate of a second side wall of the cartridge holder, the cartridge drop preventive means making a sliding contact with a side surface of the disk cartridge stored in the cartridge holder, including

an elastic flap portion provided on the second side wall of the cartridge holder opposite a first side wall facing a reproducing/recording opening portion, and a rear-anchor portion of said elastic flap portion being connected to the second side wall, and a leading end of the elastic flap portion oriented toward the insertion/removal position, giving the disk cartridge stored in the cartridge holder a braking force, and

a protruded portion disposed on a leading end portion of the elastic flap portion, the protruded portion making sliding contact with a side surface of the disk cartridge, wherein

the disk cartridge has a side surface of an insertion end thereof formed into an arc,

wherein

the disk cartridge further includes a groove portion disposed in part of the side surface thereof; and

when the disk cartridge is unloaded from the cartridge holder, the protruded portion first makes a sliding contact with the side surface of the disk cartridge and then fits into the groove portion.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The recording and/or reproducing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

the disk cartridge further includes an opening portion that allows a disk stored to face an outside and a shutter member that is locked in a position of closing the opening portion and disposed so as to be movable between a position of opening the opening portion and the position of closing the opening portion; and

a side surface plate opposing the side surface plate that includes the recessed portion has a shutter lock release member for releasing locking of the shutter member.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): The disk recording and/or reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the cartridge drop preventive means is formed by cutting and raising the side surface plate of the cartridge holder.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The disk recording and/or reproducing apparatus of claim 1 wherein the eject lever is configured to push against a front of the disk cartridge when disposed in the apparatus.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cartridge holder is supported rotatably on the chassis so as to be rotatable in an open position for receiving the disk cartridge, and rotatable to a closed position.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the elastic flap portion is configured to move along the first side wall of the cartridge holder while the disk cartridge moves from [[a]] the recording/reproducing position to [[an]] the insertion/removal position, the leading end of the elastic flap portion being configured to fit in a recessed portion of the disk cartridge at the recording/reproducing position, and fit into a groove at the insertion/removal position.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to be mounted to a side of an outer housing.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 11~~ A disk recording and/or reproducing apparatus, comprising:

recording and/or reproducing means disposed in a chassis, the recording and/or reproducing means recording and/or reproducing a disk cartridge;

a cartridge holder supported on the chassis movably between an insertion/removal position, at which the disk cartridge is inserted or removed, and a recording/reproducing position, at which the disk cartridge is recorded or reproduced by the recording and/or reproducing means;

an eject lever disposed on the chassis so as to be movable in a disk cartridge insertion/removal direction, the eject lever being pressed by an insertion end of the disk cartridge inserted in the cartridge holder to be moved in the disk cartridge insertion direction;

urge means urging the eject lever in the disk cartridge removal direction; and

cartridge drop preventive means disposed on a side surface plate of a second side wall of the cartridge holder, the cartridge drop preventive means making a sliding contact with a side surface of the disk cartridge stored in the cartridge holder, including

an elastic flap portion provided on the second side wall of the cartridge holder opposite a first side wall facing a reproducing/recording opening portion, and a rear-anchor portion of said elastic flap portion being connected to the second side wall, and a leading end of the elastic flap portion oriented toward the insertion/removal position, giving the disk cartridge stored in the cartridge holder a braking force, and

a protruded portion disposed on a leading end portion of the elastic flap portion, the protruded portion making sliding contact with a side surface of the disk cartridge, wherein

the disk cartridge has a side surface of an insertion end thereof formed into an arc, wherein the apparatus is configured to be mounted to a side of an outer housing,

further comprising the outer housing, and the outer housing includes a plurality of control keys disposed on a side of the housing opposite the side of the outer housing on which the recording/reproducing apparatus is mounted.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) A disk recording and/or reproducing apparatus, comprising:

recording and/or reproducing mechanism disposed in a chassis, the recording and/or reproducing mechanism configured to record on and/or reproduce data from a disk cartridge;

a cartridge holder supported on the chassis movably between an insertion/removal position, at which the disk cartridge is inserted or removed, and a recording/reproducing position, at which the disk cartridge is recorded or reproduced by the recording and/or reproducing mechanism;

an eject lever disposed on the chassis so as to be movable in a disk cartridge insertion/removal direction, the eject lever being pressed by an insertion end of the disk cartridge inserted in the cartridge holder to be moved in the disk cartridge insertion direction;

an urge mechanism configured to urge the eject lever in the disk cartridge removal direction; and

a cartridge drop preventive mechanism disposed on a side surface plate of a second side wall of the cartridge holder, the cartridge drop preventive mechanism making a sliding contact with a side surface of the disk cartridge stored in the cartridge holder, including

an elastic flap portion provided on the second side wall of the cartridge holder opposite a first side wall facing a reproducing/recording opening portion, and a rear-anchor portion of said elastic flap portion being connected to the second side wall, and a leading end of the elastic flap portion oriented toward the insertion/removal position, giving the disk cartridge stored in the cartridge holder a braking force, and

a protruded portion disposed on a leading end portion of the elastic flap portion, the protruded portion making sliding contact with a side surface of the disk cartridge, wherein the disk cartridge has a side surface of an insertion end thereof formed into an arc.